NEW ENGLAND FARMER.

PUBLISHED BY WILLIAM NICHOLS, ROGERS' BUILDINGS, CONGRESS STREET, (FOURTH DOOR FROM STATE STREET.)

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An Address to the Essex Agricultural Society, in Massachusetts, at Topsfield, Oct. 6, 1823. By Frederick Howes, Esq.

Agriculture is a subject on which it is difficult to say any thing that has the merit of being both original and useful. In England about seven hundred different volumes have been published on this subject within the last thirty years. Though our own country has not been so prolific in agricultural publications, yet more has been written than most farmers have time and inclination to peruse. It is not with the expectation of communicating any original information on this topic that I have been induced to comply with the request of the Trustees to make some remarks on this occasion, but from a wish to call your attention to this most important of all arts, to some of the means by which it may be improved in this county, and to some of the motives to make spirited and vigorous exertions for that purpose.

In a poem on Agriculture, and one of the finest ever written on any subject, we are told that it was not the will of the Deity that the mode of cultivating the earth should be easy, but that it should require art and labor to sharpen the minds of men by the cares and difficulties attending it.* Though this is the sentiment of a heathen poet, every practical farmer is convinced that it is no fiction.

In sacred writ we are informed that the earth was cursed for the transgression of man, that it should bring forth thorns and thistles, and that man should eat bread in the sweat of his brow. It is supposed by some that after the flood this curse was removed when the Supreme Being said he would no more curse the earth for man's sake. Others suppose the earth to be still under the influence of this malediction. We must leave this question to be settled by learned divines. It is sufficient for us as practical farmers to know that man must still get his bread by the sweat of his brow, that to the slothful the earth still brings forth thorns and thistles, but that she abundantly rewards the cares and labors of the active, industrious, and skilful husbandman. Our beneficent Creator has placed us here to cultivate the earth, and all the seeming difficulties and hardships attending it are tempered with much kindness, and many mercies. They quicken and invigorate the corporeal and méntal powers, and may in their ultimate consequences be real blessings.

One of the most important objects for the attention of a farmer is, by what means the soil can be rendered sufficiently fertile for the production of good crops, and where it is already fertile, by what means its fertility can be continued or increased. It is unfortunately the case in many parts of the United States, especially those bordering on the Atlantic, that lands originally fertile, have been so exhausted by a succession of crops in tillage with little or no manure, as to be of small value. In some of the Southern states this system of killing land, as it is termed by one of their best farmers, has been carried to such an extent, that there are many tracts of land which once produced great crops, now entirely exhausted and converted into a barren sand. In our own state and county perhaps there are not many instances where the impoverishment of the soil has been so extreme, but I apprehend that the fertility of a considerable portion of our land has been diminished, that in many instances it is now on the decline, and that there is much land in New-England, that will not produce more than half of what it formerly did.

This practice cannot be to much reprobated. It is disgraceful and ruinous to the farmer, a criminal abuse of the bounties of nature, and if universally carried to the extent to which it has been in some instances, would render the earth little better than an uninhabitable desert. The powers drawn from the soil by the production of crops, should be restored to it by manures in some shape or other. The farmer whose husbandry thus exhausts his land of its fertility ought not to be called a cultivator of the Earth, but a robber of the soil, a robber of the public, and of future generations. This sort of robbery has been ten thousand times more hurtful to the prosperity of the community, than all the highway robberies committed in New England from its first settlement to the present time.

A good farmer would not only endeavor to preserve the original fertility of the soil, but to increase it, till it was carried to the highest degree of which it is susceptible, consistent with his interest and profits. It is a most important inquiry by what means can a sufficient quantity of manure be obtained, what kinds will be the most beneficial in proportion to the expense, what are best adapted to the soil of his farm, and what will be the most beneficial application of them? Here the most learned man and the most skilful farmer, will find ample occasion for all the knowledge they have derived from study and practice, science and experience.

Barn or stable manure is one of the best means of enriching land where it can be procured in sufficient quantities; but according to our present modes of farming this can seldom be done, except in the vicinity of large towns, and even then, I doubt whether farmers can afford the high prices for stable manure at present demanded. It is not difficult for a man of fortune who regards not the expense, to enrich his land so as to produce great crops. But the question with farmers in general is, and ought to be, how it may be profitably done. If the expense exceeds the product, it will not do for them. It is not sufficient that the crops are large, but do they afford a net profit. The true object of the farmer is to cultivate his land in such a manner as will afford the largest profit, after deducting rents, taxes, labor, and all expenses of cultivation.

The manure from the barn I believe might be very much increased, perhaps doubled or trippled, if the yard were covered with earth, turf, or vegetable matter to a depth sufficient to absorb all the liquid manure. Every part should be secured as much as possible from exhalation by the heat of the sun.

It seems to be generally agreed by English Agriculturalists, that stable manure by fermenting loses a great part of its value. Mr. Coke, the great English Commoner and Agriculturalist, says, that by using his manure fresh, it went twice as far as it did formerly, when used after fermentation. As a general rule it cannot be doubted that it is much better to apply manure to land in tillage than in grass. In the latter case a great portion of it is lost by evaporation.

MINERAL MANURES. It seems very desirable that the mineral manures should have a much more effectual and extensive trial than they ever have had in this county. The virtues of lime have been so highly extolled, and it has been in fact so powerful a fertilizer of land in other countries, that it deserves a full and fair experiment here. Experience seems to have shown that lime when applied in so small a quantity as twenty bushels to the acre, may alter the texture and constitution of the soil, and render it fit for the production of crops of which it was before incapable.

A late and excellent writer on agriculture says, "it is inconceivable what effect lime has on the productiveness of the earth. Philosophers have investigated its nature and properties to find out the secret spell by which it works, and while some have attributed the effect to its power of decomposing putrescible matter, or to its affinity for carbonic acid, others have ascribed it to the change effected on the constitution of the soil. All however are agreed that no land after its first and natural richness has been exhausted by cropping, can continue fertile without a mixture of this fossil. Its use was the first thing which revived English agriculture after it had long languished in the most abject state, and the first thing which raised Scotland to opulence and independence. Lime, as a manure, has found its way into France and Germany, and it is blended with the soil along the shores of the Baltic. In Southern latitudes this mineral manure is more generally applied, either incorporated with clay in the shape of marl, or combined with sulphuric acid in that of gypsum."*

There is one circumstance which seems to render the beneficial effect of lime in our county very probable. The soil of Essex with very few exceptions, is either what Geologists call the primitive rocks, earth resulting from the decomposition of these rocks, or of alluvial, the washings and depositions of the primitive. We have I believe no limestone, and the quantity of lime in our soil must of course be much smaller, than in a soil resting on lime stone. The less we have in our soil, the more beneficial would its application probably be, and greater in such a soil as ours, than in one of a different formation. An additional incitement to the use of it is, that in Pennsylvania, where probably more lime has

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* Pater ipse colendi
Haud facilem esse viam voluit, primusque per artem
Movit agros, curis acuens mortalia corda
Georgica I. 121.

* Letters of Agricola.

been used for manure than in all the other states, a much smaller quantity has been found sufficient than is frequently applied in England and Scotland, probably owing to the greater portion of calcareous matter contained in the limestone used in this country. Thus though lime might be dearer here, in proportion to its bulk than in Great-Britain, it might be cheaper as a manure on account of its superior strength, or in other words, the greater portion of pure lime in our limestones. If twenty, thirty or forty bushels of lime applied to an acre will produce a great and permanent improvement in the constitution of the soil, and contribute by its solvent powers to render animal and vegetable manures more efficacious, then lime may prove one of the most effectual modes of enriching our lands.

Gypsum or Plaster of Paris. This mineral has in many parts of our country produced a wonderful effect, and contributed perhaps more than any other cause to the improvement of agriculture in those places. It is supposed that near the sea coast it has little or no effect, and has in some instances been tried without success. It appears to me that further trials are desirable. It is a manure so cheap, so small a quantity as one or two bushels being sufficient for an acre, has produced such great crops elsewhere, that it seems expedient to make additional experiments to ascertain whether it may not be beneficial for some kinds of soil in our county, or perhaps for some particular crops. The reason assigned by that eminent chemist, Sir Humphrey Davy, why gypsum produces little or no effect on some soils, that those soils probably contain it already in sufficient quantities, does not appear satisfactory. The mode in which it operates is not well understood, but if our soils already contain gypsum enough, why does it not display its powers in the production of good crops here, as well as in the lands in Pennsylvania, and on Connecticut River; The experiment should be made on light sandy soils, or on a dry loam. On clay or on wet soils, gypsum it is said does not succeed.

Sand and clay operate as manures for each other. Where there is an excess of sand in the soil, clay is one of the most beneficial manures, and on the other hand, where there is an excess of clay, it is remedied by the application of sand. The improvement of the soil in these cases is lasting, and not like that produced by vegetable and animal manures exhausted after a few crops. A permanent change is produced in the texture and constitution of the soil, it becomes better adapted for the reception of manures of a different kind, and will render them much more efficacious.

In this county, from the dryness of the atmosphere, and the nature of our soil, we suffer more from dry seasons than wet ones. But a small proportion of our lands require draining for tillage, and especially for grass. There are however some tracts of land in various parts of the county, which must be drained to be productive. These are often composed of rich earth, washed in a long course of years from the higher lands adjacent, and of vegetable matter the accumulated product of centuries and if rendered sufficiently dry, would probably produce large crops. It is well known to every practical farmer, that the first requisite to the successful cultivation of such lands, is to lay them dry, that till this is done labor, tillage, manures, and all efforts to render such land productive, will be in a great measure fruitless. The facilty of draining here is generally much greater than in England, and it will seldom be necessary to resort to the covered drains so common in that country, and so expensive.

An essential requisite of good husbandry is, that the soil should be kept free from weeds. In this particular there are among us great deficiencies. We are the less excusable in not keeping our lands free from weeds as we have one crop which is peculiarly favorable to that object, I mean Indian corn or maize. This alone gives us a great advantage over those countries where it is not cultivated, that is over almost all Europe. Perhaps we are not fully aware of the value of this noble plant. The celebrated Arthur Young considers it as the test of a good climate for agriculture. In Great-Britain and the larger part of France, it will not come to maturity, the climate is too cold. In the south of France and in some parts, of Italy it is cultivated to a considerable extent. Mr. Young says, the only good husbandry he found in France was in those districts where maize was produced. Wherever this plant was cultivated, there was an abundant supply of food for man and for domestic animals.

Our soil and climate are well adapted to the growth of maize. It produces a much larger quantity of food on the same space, than any other kind of grain; forty, fifty, sixty bushels an acre, are not an uncommon crop, and several experiments shew, that one hundred bushels may be obtained in ordinary seasons, from a single acre. The stalks and husks afford a nutritive food for cattle equal on an acre to half a ton of hay, when the corn is good.

It affords an excellent opportunity for enriching land, so that no manure may be lost by evaporation. All kinds of manure, animal, vegetable, or mineral, and in any condition if turned under the soil are benficial, snd may be applied without danger. I mentioned it in the first instance as a clean crop, that is a crop that enables the farmer to keep his land free from weeds, and prepare it for another. In England where turnips and beans are used as crops for cleaning land, the value of the crop is much less than that of Indian corn, and the expense of cultivaton much greater.

In order to obtain the full benefit from the cultivation of this crop, the land should not only be rich, but kept entirely free from weeds. The propriety of doing this is so obvious that, the remark may seem unnecessary, yet if we take a survey of the cornfields in this county, I apprehend we shall find frequent violations of this rule. In many instances, after waging a warfare during the season, the weeds have finally obtained the ascendency, their seeds have been allowed to come to maturity, and prepare the soil for a still more abundant crop of weeds the ensuing year. From the appearance of some fields in tillage, it might be imagined, that the object of the farmer was to bestow just so much cultivation as should produce a plentiful crop of weeds, who, as if they had a right as being the original occupants of the soil, are allowed to retain possession and repel any intruders. By allowing weeds to remain till their innumerable seeds ripen, we not only injure ourselves but our neighbors. The heavier seeds intrude upon their frontiers, and the winged kinds matured in our neglected grounds, fill the air like the noxious locusts of other regions, and either choke the crops of our neighbors, or make work for their hoes.

Our soil is well adapted to grass, both for pasturage and mowing land, and the climate is generally very favorable for making hay. In the vicinity of large towns, few crops are more profitable than grass, and few are obtained with so much ease. So long as lands thus situated will produce a good crop of grass, perhaps as a general rule it is not expedient to apply them to any other use. But most of our mowing lands fail in a few years, and becomes necessary to break them up for tillage, and on almost every farm of any magnitude it is *necessary* to combine tillage and grass husbandry, in order to keep the land in good condition. The laying of land to grass is an important part of the farmer's business. The two grasses, whose seed is commonly sown, clover and herds grass, are both good, but it might be expedient to try other kinds, especially in laying down pasture lands. If pasture as well as mowing lands were always laid to grass in a rich condition, with plenty of the kinds of seed adapted to the soil many pastures would produce double the quantity they do at present, and be also in a better state for tillage when broken up. But no farmer should put his plough into grass land unless after a course of crops in tillage he can lay it to grass in a condition at least as good as it was before.

In ploughing hilly land it is very important to prevent the soil from being washed away by rains. Much injury has been done to lands of this description, by the wasting effect of rains, the land gullied the vegetable mould and richest earth washed away, and the soil either irretrievably injured, or to such a degree, that its fertility could be restored only at a great expense. The method of horizontal ploughing practised in some parts of Virginia, seems the most effectual security against this evil.

As an instance of what may be done by an active, and skilful farmer, I will mention the case of that celebrated English farmer, Robert Bakewell. Mr. Bakewell was a tenant occupying a farm of four hundred and forty acres, about one fourth arable, and the rest grass. On this farm, and from the produce of it, he kept one hundred and fifty horned cattle, four hundred sheep, and sixty horses. These animals were all well fed, in an excellent condition, and many of them the best animals of the kind in the kingdom. Mr. Young, who visited this farm, and who gives this account of it, says, "the cattle were all as fat as bears." If the live stock on a farm of one hundred acres were in the same proportion, there would be thirty four neat cattle, ninety sheep, and fourteen horses. This was undoubtedly an extraordinary instance, but it proves how productive the soil may be rendered by judicious cultivation.

I am of opinion that by skilful management, it is practicable to keep a farm in a condition of constant improvement for an indefinite time, to render it from year to year, the season being equally good, more productive;—and that this may be done from the resources of the farm, without any great expense in the purchase of materials to enrich it from abroad. Among the means necessary for this purpose, would be I apprehend, a due proportion of grass, and tillage husbandry, making as much manure as possible

a diligent search for, and application of all kinds of manure, whether mineral, vegetable, or animal, which may be procured without any great expense, a judicious rotation of crops adapted to the soil and the probable state of the markets, a thorough and complete tillage of the arable land, and the destruction of all weeds, so that the powers of the soil should be wholly applied to the production of useful crops.

One great defect common in the husbandry of this county the want of root crops, has been pointed out in this place, in former addresses, and the great advantage of these crops for live stock described and demonstrated in the most satisfactory manner. Among these I believe the Mangel Wurtzel, or great beet, and carrots, are preferable to any crops of the kind that have been tried here. They afford a much more nutritive food for cattle, and a larger produce (especially the Mangel Wurtzel) to the acre, than any turnip with which we are acquainted. It seems well ascertained that the Ruta Baga, when given to cows, communicates a bad flavor to the milk, though it may be good food for other live stock. Our long and severe winters, render it necessary to lay in store so much food for cattle, and the tap-rooted plants when well cultivated, afford so much, and of such an excellent quality that no farmer who is able to cultivate his farm in a husband-like manner, should be without a plentiful supply of vegetables.

One principle which cannot be too strongly recommended to every farmer, is to have his live stock, and all the products of his farm the best of the kind, the best kinds of hay and grain, the best butter, cheese, fruits, cider, potatoes, and other vegetables, for the market. The difference in point of expense in the production is very trifling between very good, and ordinary or bad, but in the price of these commodities, and the profits to be derived from them, the difference is very great. Articles of the best quality will always command a good price, while those of an inferior quality, though produced at nearly or quite the same expense, perhaps cannot be sold at all, or sold only at a loss.

Perhaps we may derive some encouragement for spirited and vigorous efforts to improve our own agriculture, if we compare it for a moment with that of England, and take a view of some of the advantages and disadvantages of the English and American farmer. In England, agriculture is carried to a much higher degree of perfection than in other countries, with the exception perhaps, of Flanders, Lombardy, and some parts of Switzerland, and Scotland. This is not owing, as is well known, to any superiority of soil or climate, enjoyed by England over many other countries of Europe. Arthur Young, an excellent judge, after making his agricultural tours over France and England, says, that both in soil, and climate, France has the superiority over England, but the produce of the latter country by the acre, was on an average, nearly or quite double to that of France, owing to superior cultivation. Our own agriculture is probably inferior to that of England;—there are no doubt, exceptions to this remark, but as a general position it is unquestionably true. What are the causes of this superiority? What are the advantages of soil, climate, or political institutions, which the English enjoys over the American farmer? Or is the difference owing to the superior industry, skill and liberal application of capital in English agriculture?

In England the greater mildness of the weather in winter, enables a farmer to prepare his land earlier for a spring crop, to feed his turnips on the ground, and prosecute some operations in agriculture which the severity of our winters renders impracticable. The winter is both milder and shorter, the atmosphere being more moist, is in some respects more favorable to vegetation, and they suffer less from drought than we do. Vegetation is however more rapid here than in England, and though our spring is later, our harvest is earlier. Hay is also cut earlier here, and owing to the superior dryness of our atmosphere is much more easily made than in England. Indian corn gives us a great advantage over the English farmer, as has been already mentioned.

With respect to the soil, a skilful observer, Chancellor Livingston, after an attentive examination, is of opinion, that the soil of the United States is not inferior to that of France, Great Britain, Italy, Flanders and Germany.—The soil of our own county is not so good as that of some parts of the United States. A very considerable portion of Essex, however, is naturally fertile, and if agriculture does not flourish more with us, it cannot, I think, be justly ascribed to any defect in our soil or climate.

[*Remainder in our next.*]

Roxbury, Feb. 13, 1824.

T. G. FESSENDEN, Esq.

Sir,—Having called several times at the Shakers' Village, in Canterbury, N. H. during the past year, among their numerous economical arrangements, I was much pleased with their mode of keeping *fresh meats* during the winter and late into spring. By this means, they kill off a considerable number of animals and poultry in December and January, and preserve them for use, (*saving the expense of food and labor attending them*) during the whole winter.—I had hoped to have received this statement in season for our last Agricultural Repository, but was disappointed.—I think it might do good, though now getting late in the season, to publish it, in your valuable paper.

The receipt for making *soft soap*, may also be useful to publish.

Respectfully yours,
JOHN PRINCE.

Canterbury, Jan. 26, 1824.

MUCH RESPECTED FRIEND PRINCE,—Your letter of the 22d Dec. was duly received, but I regret to say, that it was at a time in which I was preparing for a long journey, and therefore could not immediately answer your request with regard to giving you information, as respects the keeping of fresh meat, and the making of soap: nor have I, till this instant, (in consequence of a crowd of business,) had any convenient opportunity to write. However, if it will be of any service to you, or the public, at this late period, you shall be welcome to the following hints.

To keep Fresh Meat good during winter and spring.

Dig a cave, if convenient, under the north side of a building where the ground descends considerably to the north; wall it all round with stone or brick, except the passage on the north side, which should be an entry way, furnished with three doors, at some distance apart; the middle one to be made of slats, the other two made whole in order to shut close. Having cut the meat into large pieces, permit it to freeze thoroughly; then place it in the cave upon shelves prepared for that purpose, and cover it over with tow sheets, upon which snow may be laid if necessary. The doors are to be kept closely shut during moderate or thawey weather; but they should be occasionally left open when the weather is cold, in order to let in the frost. The middle door is for the purpose of keeping out carnivorous animals while the others are open; the other two are to prevent the warm air from penetrating the cave, the grand object being to keep the meat in a frozen situation.

With due attention meat may be kept fresh and good in this way, from December till April and perhaps for a longer time.

Where it is not convenient to make a cave under a building as above, it may answer a good purpose to dig it in any other convenient place where the ground descends sharply towards the north: but in this case it should be covered over with flat stones and earth; and also with a wooden roof in order to keep out the rain.

An easy method to make good Soap.

The vats or vessels containing it are to be situated in the rays of the sun; and at the same time sheltered from the rain.

To one barrel of good lye sufficiently strong to bear up an egg, add about six gallons of clean melted grease, and thus in proportion for any other quantity.* Stir the mixture well together, and repeat the operation twice daily, till it becomes so thick and stiff as to render stirring impracticable. Let it stand in this situation thro' the summer; or till needed for use, adding a little weak lye occasionally as the soap dries away.

With due respect, your friend,
FRANCIS WINKLEY.

* Or add as much grease as the lye will absorb, or eat up.

To purify River or any other Muddy Water.—Dissolve half an ounce of alum in a pint of warm water, and stirring it about in a puncheon of water just taken from any river, all the impurities will soon settle to the bottom, and in a day or two it will become as clear as the finest spring water.

Warm Water.—Warm water is preferable to cold water, as a drink, for persons who are subject to dyspeptic and billious complaints, and it may be taken more freely than cold water, and consequently answers better as a diluent for carrying off bile, and removing obstructions in the uriny secretion in cases of stone and gravel. When water, of a temperature equal to that of the human body, is used for drink, it proves considerably stimulant, and is particularly suited to dyspeptic, billious, gouty and chlorotic subjects.

To make Sea water fit for washing Linen at Sea.—Soda put into sea-water, renders it turbid, the lime and magnesia fall to the bottom. To make sea water fit for washing linen at sea, as much soda must be put in it, as not only to effect a complete precipitation of these earths, but to render the sea-water sufficiently lixivial or alkaline. Soda should always be taken to sea for this purpose.

From the Old Colony Memorial.

AGRICULTURAL STATEMENT.

By Doct. Macomber.

To the Trustees of the Plymouth County Agricultural Society.

[Concluded from page 226.]

In the spring of 1823, vegetation in general was backward, and the grass in the swamp appeared not more promising, than in many other places, but as the season advanced, the growth became more rapid, and by the last of June the grass was stout. Though the grass had lodged a little in some places, yet it was growing more rapidly the first of July, than it had done at any previous time. A small part only of the herdsgrass and fine top and less than half the clover had blossomed. While in this flourishing state, a heavy rain on the 6th of July brought the clover with much of the herdsgrass and finetop to the ground. The next day on examining the grass, I found that the decay at root in future would probably much more than balance the gain of grass at top; and that though the crop might gain in weight by standing longer, yet would lose in value, and that a second crop would be proportionally less valuable. I therefore determined immediately to cut it, though the shrink might be greater, and the weight of the crop considerably less. I resolved not to sacrifice substance to sound.

On the 8th of July, I began mowing the swamp; although it was misty, and the atmosphere was loaded with vapors. At noon the clouds disappeared, and seven days of as fine hay weather succeeded, as are usually seen. The greener and more sappy hay lay exposed to the sunshine of five successive days, having been cocked at night and spread out in the morning. I was told by some that I made it too much; but though it was abundantly dried, yet I think it will gather sufficient moisture in the mow to be good hay, and I have no apprehension, that it will be mowburned. It was carried into the barn, a distance of a few rods only, upon poles, and weighed during the heat of the afternoon, and on the 14th of July the weight was found to be 7739 lbs. or 3 tons, 9 cwt. 11 lbs.

On the 31st of July the swamp was surveyed by Joseph Clift, jr. Esq. with the assistance of the man, who was chiefly concerned in cutting the grass, making the hay, and weighing it; and was found after making a deduction for the unproductiveness of ditches and drains, to contain one acre and thirty-four rods.

On the 9th of September we commenced getting the second crop on the swamp, and on the 17th the weight of the same was ascertained to be 4102 lbs. or 1 ton. 16 cwt. 70 lbs.

This, added to the weight of the first crop, gives in the whole 11841 lbs. or 5 tons, 5 cwt. 81 lbs. which is after the rate of 4 tons 7 cwt. 21 lbs. per acre.

The swamp is not yet "tabula rasa." It is not exhausted by the energies, it has already put forth. During the nine days, we have been employed in getting the last crop, it has shot up spires of grass more than 7 inches above the cutting. Already it assumes a delightful verdure.

Thus it appears, that the wealth of our country lies buried beneath stagnant water, and an exuberance of useless herbage and bushes, fruitful source, teeming with the seeds of fever, and giving off to every breeze the noisome breath of pestilence. And shall we sleep on regardless of the truest interests of agriculture? regardless of our health? Shall we tread beneath our feet, as worthless, sources of wealth far richer than the mines of Potosi? Shall we go on still negligent of those great depositories of vegetable life, from whose prolific bed might be drawn an amount of food, equal to the support of a population, many times exceeding the present population of the United States?

Without doubt the writer might have reared on his swamp much greater crops, than those stated in this paper, if he had made a free use of manures; but if he had done this, it would have been said by many 'these crops are not the effect of the richness of the swamp-soil; they are the effect of manures.' There is now no place for this kind of reasoning. No waggon-wheels groaning beneath the pressure of compost have passed over this spot; nor has the soil, already blackish, been blackened by manures. The soil needs little manure. Swamp-soil is in itself manure; and is in truth the farmer's mine.

By judicious application of manures swamp-soil might doubtless be brought to yield as great crops of hay, as any soil whatever.—And it is probable, that instead of mowing it twice, it might be necessary to mow it three times in a season; in ordor to prevent its lodging. But robbing other lands of their proportion of manure to raise one piece to an unnatural fertility may be about as wise, as for a man to starve his stock of cattle to rear a fat ox to be exhibited at a cattle-show with this difference, that salt will preserve the ox when slaughtered; but it is uncertain, whether salt will preserve his three green crops of grass, unless at each time of cutting he should be miraculously favored with fine hay weather.

For reducing swamps and low lands to the necessary degree of dryness no specific rules can be given. The differences of situation and soil, the number of springs and brooks, and their relative position, the existence of shaking grounds, the unevenness at the surface, and the risings and depressions of the pan beneath, are matters, which demand correspondent differences of management. Much less will it be proper to adhere to the directions of European writers, for they have been conversant with soils widely different from ours. The circumstances of the spot of ground before us can alone dictate a judicious mode of proceedure. When one writer tells us, that drained swamps will produce 4 tons of English hay per acre, and more than 90 bushels of Indian corn per acre without manure, we may safely believe him. When another writer tells us, that to drain a shaking ground we must dig the ditch at the outlet as deep, as the bottom of such ground, it will be best to withhold our assent; for swamps may be made so dry, as to produce but small crops of grass, while on the other hand they may be left in so wet a state, as to produce grasses only of the inferior kinds. In draining a swamp it is not a little difficult to retain the proper degree of moisture; for it is not more vain to expect a plentiful crop of good grasses without the influence of the sun, than to expect such a crop without a considerable degree of moisture situated not far from the surface of the soil.

From situation some wet soils cannot be reclaimed by draining and ridge-plonghings, but may be made good meadow by carting out upon them sand and gravel, or compost, in which sand is a principal ingredient. But this is frequently an expensive operation. It will always be proper as well to count the cost as to calculate profit.

If any manures are necessary on swamp soils, they are such, as promote the decomposition of vegetable substances. But this effect may sometimes be as well produced by ploughings, for loosening and breaking up the soil by the plough lets into it heat and air, which with the water already present, are all the agents necessary to decompose and break down the soil, and give it the desired fertility.

The air is composed of an infinity of gasses —of vapours exhaled from the bosom of the earth as much more fertilizing, than the more dense and earthy manures, as volatile alkali is more fertilizing, than the fixed. The atmosphere is a grand laboratory, in which God, the mighty Chemist is continually carrying on an endless variety of operations, and while he is decomposing some atmospheric substances, is doubtless forming new compounds from others. The man therefore, who ridge-ploughs his wet grounds, has the satisfaction of thinking, while he is forming drains in the most expeditious manner, and reducing his soil to desirable fineness, that he is likewise throwing it up (if the writer may be allowed the expression) within the influence of atmospheric manures, and is causing it to become in such a manner the recipient of a thousand gasses, that by the chemical action of earths and airs the quality of his soil is greatly improved.

The writer concludes by once more repeating a short sentence, that deserves to be written in letters of gold, "Venerate the Plough."

EXTRACT

From an Address, delivered at the fifth Anniversary Meeting of the Saratoga County Agricultural Society, held at Ballston Spa, on the 8th day of October, 1823. By Earl Stimson, Esq *President of the Society.*

"Industry, and economy combined, from the true philosophers stone, which turns all into gold. Without these essential qualifications, no one can be a respectable, or an useful member of Society. They are therefore among those principles which should be instilled into the child from his earliest infancy.—They most generally exist together, and are both so indispensably necessary to success in any pursuit of life, that where one is wanting, the other for all practical purposes may as well be absent.—For without industry, economy will be of no avail.—And without economy, the fruits of industry are soon wasted.—Man being formed for action, and duties always devolving upon him, industry and economy cannot be dispensed with, in any situation in which he can be placed. It is the want of these, that prevents the success of so many in the various mechanical branches, as well as in the learned professions—and it is the primary cause which calls in the aid of the insolvent law to close up the concerns of so many in the mercantile world.

"The indolent person soon loses the confidence, and of course the patronage of his em-

ployers, and poverty, and disgrace are the final, and inevitable result. But in no one, are the unhappy effects which result from the want of these, more apparent than in the cultivator of the soil. The indolent farmer exhibits his own disgrace to every passing traveller; and brings forcibly to the mind even of the stranger, the words of the wise man—"I went by the field of the slothful, and by the vineyard of the man void of understanding, and lo it was all grown over with thorns, and nettles had covered the face thereof, and the stone wall thereof was broken down." How true is the picture which Solomon here gives of what daily falls under our own observation. How often do we see a farm susceptible of a high state of cultivation, and which might with any thing of industry and economy be a source of wealth to its possessor—how often do we see it grown over with bushes, briars, thistles, and every hurtful weed—the fields badly arranged, the fences out of repair, the land half tilled, the barn doors broken from their hinges, and the windows of the house filled with hats, presenting any idea but that of comfort.

"On a nearer examination, the picture is still darkened.—Look at his stock, his out-houses, his implements of husbandry; every thing is poor and out of its place. Enter his dwelling—*his home*, that sacred place in which are to be found the only fruits of Eden which have survived the fall—is domestic peace and happiness ever found within, where neglect and ruin are without? Does not every thing wear the same aspect—and is there not inscribed on every thing on which the eye can rest, indolence and waste?

"Reverse the picture; and what can be presented more agreeable, what can be accompanied with more pleasing ideas. Look at the farm of the man who is diligent in his business, and prudent in his concerns—his own spirit is infused into every thing around him—every thing is in repair, every thing is in its place, every thing is in its season;—every thing evinces that the master's eye has seen and directed all his concerns—and that he hath remembered and practised the adage—

"He that by the plough would thrive,
Himself must either hold or drive."

—On a nearer examination we find his fields well arranged and productive, his crops clean, and of the best quality, and secured in season under cover, instead of being exposed to weather in stacks as is too frequently the case, to the great loss of the farmer, both in the crop itself, and in the manure of which it might be productive—we find his cattle well fed—in good condition—and *often* better sheltered than the *family* of the slothful. Enter his dwelling, it is the habitation of plenty—the store house of the dairy and the loom—and his fire side, that calm and domestic one, where the farmer, in the bosom of his family, finds not only rest from his toil, but the richest reward of his labor.

"Since we are assembled for the purpose of mutually receiving and communicating instruction, and stimulating each other in that pursuit, which was the first, and is still the most honorable employment of man—it will be expected that something will be said more particularly on the cultivation of the soil. Agriculture embraces in its widest sense too many subjects to admit of a description in detail, within the limits of a single discourse. Division and Fencing of a Farm, the proper mode of tillage—draining and watering of land—the rotation of crops—kitching gardening, that important, though much neglected subject—the planting and cultivating of fruit trees—different kinds of manures and their application—the raising and fatting cattle—the form and construction of farming utensils, the most proper mode of building, both as it respects the form and materials—and the different kinds of domestic manufactures would furnish matter for an useful discourse—but without descending to any particular discussion on any one of these subjects, suffice it to say that a knowledge of them all will be sought by the practical farmer. But permit me in compliance with the request of several gentlemen, briefly to subjoin a statement of what I have found to be the most successful and profitable mode of cultivating the farm which I have taken under my immediate care and upon which I have tried a number of experiments.

"The soil of this land is a brown loam, lying on a stratum of lime and sand stone, at the depth of from three to six feet, projecting out of the ground occasionally on the brink of ridges.—The surface was covered with round hard stone sufficient when put into half wall with posts and rails to enclose it in lots from five to ten acres. The original timber was principally beech and maple, mixed with bass wood, elm, and hemlock. The whole farm was interspersed with spots low and springy.—When first cleared the dry land was productive both in grain and grass.

"It was occupied as four small farms previous to its coming into my possession, and has been so often cropped without seeding down to grass or being supplied with manure as to become in a great measure unproductive not yielding the occupants on an average more than twenty bushels of grain to one ton of hay per acre.

"Little or no attention had been paid to the arrangement of the lots—the fences were in a decayed state and the buildings much out of repair, and the whole was much covered with old logs, stumps, stones, hedges of briars, unprofitable bushes and weeds. For the first four or five years after part of this land came into my possession, I pursued the common way of farming, and half ploughed and harrowed my land over the stones and around the logs and bushes—summer fallowed at the loss of one crop, and ploughed in what little manure I saved five or six inches deep. I laid out much labor and got small crops.

"Tilling my land with hired hands, I found on posting my account it was running me in debt instead of being a source of profit. This induced me to try some other method, and after several experiments having for their object the economy of labor, the procuring and application of manure and the rotation of crops—the following has proved the most successful.

"In the first place I drew a plan on paper arranging the land into spuare and convenient lots containing from five to ten acres having an eye to the convenience of water for each field and to the transportation of its produce to the barn where it was to be housed but with no regard to the unevenness of the surface or the swales of springy land. This land cost about twenty-eight dollars per acre. I commenced fitting the lots and continued year after year in succession. The management of one may be taken as a specimen of the whole.

"I removed the rubish at an expense of about $2 per acre.—The loose stones were then removed and with posts and rails placed into permanent fence, at an average expense of $6 per acre.—This expense added to the first cost of the land, makes an average of $36 per acre, excepting repairs of buildings, when the land was fit for tillage. I then arranged my barn yards a little dishing, where it was convenient, for making and preserving manure. I drew into them in the fall a quantity of turf and dirt from the knolls around my buildings and the adjacent roads and yarded my stock upon it during the winter. This course I pursued for a few years until my crops so increased as to furnish me with manure in a sufficient quantity to give each of my lots a slight coat once in five or six years. In the spring it was thrown into small piles in the yard. In the fall commenced ploughing with a good and faithful ploughman who turned over the sod about three inches in depth and from eight to ten inches in width. The dry part was back furrowed into lands of twelve paces and the wet into lands from five to six paces wide, leaving a deep dead furrow to answer the purpose of a drain. I spread over it from six to eight three horse loads of manure per acre and on the driest and moat barren I have added three or four loads of old leached ashes—rolled it down with a roller five feet long and twenty inches in diameter. This was done to pulverise the lumps and settle the manure and land together.

"This I have done both in the spring and fall—the spring I have found the best time but not so convenient for carting manure. About the tenth of May it was well dragged, or ploughed with a one horse plough; if ploughed it was harrowed down and if it was wet and springy it was cast into small ridges by throwing two furrows together at a distance of two and a half feet from the centre of the ridges, but without disturbing the sod; then cross-marked at the same distance. About the fifteenth or twentieth of May it was planted with eight rowed yellow corn, twelve quarts to the acre, wet in a pickle made of six ounces of saltpetre, two quarts of boiling water, one gill of tar. This pickle was applied to the seed boiling hot, which immediately was rolled in plaster and planted. The head lands were planted with four rows of potatoes for the convenience of turning the horse so as not to break down the corn.

"After the corn was out of the ground six or eight inches, it was lightly ploughed both ways—one furrow in a row, dressed out with a hoe and plastered on the hill five pecks to the acre. After two or three weeks it was ploughed and hoed as before without disturbing the sod, and suckered before hoeing, leaving three or four stalks in a hill. The potatoes were hoed at the same time with the corn—the first time, the tops were covered about an inch and the hill left flat—the second time, the tops were spread apart with the hoe and about the same quantity of dirt applied on the hills as before. The whole of this expense including the manure and interest of the 36 dollars did not exceed nineteen dollars and a half per acre.

"In the fall, I gathered on an average from sixty to seventy bushels of corn per acre fit for

the crib: which, at that time, was worth fifty-six, or sixty cents per bushel; and from four hundred and fifty, to five hundred bushels of potatoes, worth about sixteen cents per bushel. After the corn mas harvested the hills were harrowed with a two horse drag—In the spring I ploughed it just deep enough to turn up the old sod which had become a fine vegetable mould for a spring crop and after harrowing the furrows down, sowed it with barley, washed in strong brine and rolled in plaster about two and a half bushels of seed per acre, harrowed it, and before cross harrowing it was seeded with four pounds of the large red clover seed and three quarts of timothy. After the barley was out of the ground one or two inches, it was sowed broad cast with plaster, five or six pecks, per acre, and rolled down to pulverise the lumps and smooth the surface for mowing. The expense of this crop was not to exceed ten dollars per acre. In this way the land was cleansed. enriched, and prepared for a further rotation of crops.

"The second rotation.—The sod was turned over the last of August or first of Sept., manured and rolled down as in the first instance. About the fifteenth of September, I sowed it with red chaff bearded wheat one and a half bushels per acre and harrowed it in. The seed was prepared by washing it clean in a strong brine made with salt, and immediately rolled in lime and I let it lie moist twenty-four hours to prevent smut and insect. In the fore part of May, five or six pecks of plaster were sowed broad cast to the acre. The expense of this crop including manure was about fourteen dollars per acre—the produce from 35 to 40 bushels per acre worth $1, 25 per bushel.

"Late in the fall or early in the spring I turned up the old sod—harrowed and planted it to corn. Tilled as before mentioned except the barnyard manure—the expense about $14 per acre—had from 80 to a 100 bushels per acre worth 44 cts. per bushel.

"In the fall or early in the spring I harrowed down the hills and in the spring prepared and sowed it with some spring crop suitable to stock down—sowed and rolled as before stated, produce from 50 to 60 bushels if barley—from 25 to 35 if spring wheat, and from 70 to 80 if oats——from 5 to 600 lbs. of flax per acre; and afterwards for two or three years, from 3 1-2 to 4 tons of hay, or pasture in that proportion per acre. Some seasons, instead of sowing wheat on the sod in the fall, I have turned it over in the spring, rolled and harrowed it, and sowed it with 3 bushels of small or 3 1-2 bushels of large white peas to the acre. After they had been washed in strong brine and rolled in plaster they were ploughed in on the top of the sod—when out of the ground one or two inches, plastered 5 or 6 pecks to the acre, and had from 30 to 40 bushels per acre—then in the fall, turned back the sod and manured it, sowed it with wheat as before stated, and have had from 40 to 45 bushels per acre. The third season have taken a crop of from 80 to 100 bushels of corn per acre. And the fourth stocked it down with barley. This I have found a good course when my ground was in heart so that it would answer to take from it four crops of grain before stocking with grass. With this mode of husbandry, as will appear from following out the above calculations, my land has afforded me a handsome profit."

NEW ENGLAND FARMER.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 1824.

NEWLY INVENTED STEAM APPARATUS. We have seen some ingenious machinery for heating steam to a high temperature, invented by Mr. Joseph Dixon, of Lynn, Mass. which promises to prove of much utility. We shall attempt to give some idea of this invention, although without a diagram it will be perhaps impossible to give a clear explanation of its principles.

The Reservoir of water which supplies the 'Boiler or Generator is placed about 16 feet perpendicular height above the Generator, and the latter is supplied by a pipe, which descends from the former. A small distance above the Generator is placed a Cock with an Index and plate, to regulate the admission of water. The Generator is an iron tube, set perpendicularly in a brick furnace, made very strong, and strongly closed at top, except the aperture, which admits the tube from the Reservoir. Near the top of the Generator is a small tube, entering into the Boiler, and winding several times round to its bottom,and then rising perpendicularly at a small distance from the same, and communicating with an iron vessel of a globular form. In this last mentioned vessel, steam pipes, furnished with cocks are inserted, which conduct the steam into steam-receivers in the apartments, or into the liquids, &c. which it is wished to heat. Water is drawn into the Reservoir by the agency of steam which is made to enter it, and by expelling the air, and then being gradually condensed, creates a vacuum, and water is forced by the pressure of the atmosphere, from a barrel or other vessel, placed on a level with the boiler, &c. into the Reservoir.

The advantages which the inventor expects to derive from his machinery consist, 1. In an easy and convenient mode of heating steam to a high temperature, by its being exposed, after its formation, under a degree of pressure, which prevents its escape, to be further heated in the spiral tube before mentioned. 2. If steam of a high temperature is made use of for heating apartments, the vessels, which receive it may be a smaller size than in the mode practised in England. 3.By introducing into liquids, steam of a *high* temperature, they may be *evaporated;* but if steam, of merely a *boiling heat*, is introduced into water, its condensation produces more water than its caloric expels, and thus the quantity of water, which it is wished to evaporate is increased instead of being diminished.

Mr. Howes' Address, published in this day's paper, will be perused with profit, and we presume with pleasure, by our agricultural readers. It exhibits condensation of thought, together with perspicuity of expression, not often united. We regret the necessity of postponing a part of it to our next; which became indispensable in consequence of some other articles, which could not well be divided, engrossing a larger portion of our columns than was anticipated.

FOREIGN.

London papers to the 6th Jan. have been received at New York, but their contents are not very interesting. The accounts from Paris are to the 3d. The Etoile contains some strictures on the President's Message. It observes that "Mr. Monroe has taken in his Message the tone of a powerful monarch, whose armies and fleets are ready to go forth on the first signal. He does more; he prescribes to the Potentates ef Europe the conduct they are to pursue in certain circumstances, if they do not wish to incur his displeasure. Such is the prohibition which he issues against their ever thinking of any new colonization in the two Americas." The Editor concludes by saying that "the opinions of Mr. Monroe are as yet merely the opinions of a private individual."

Portugal is distressed for money, and desponding at the loss of her South American Colonies. A forced Loan is in contemplation, and every imported article additionally taxed. A very serious conspiracy has been discovered at Lisbon just on the point of breaking out. Three Ministers had been dismissed, the *King has ordered the Queen to be arrested*, and many people of distinction were on trial. The people are in open rebellion.

An article dated Nuremberg, mentions that an important note had been delivered by Sir C. Bagot, English Ambassador at Petersburgh, to Count Nesselrode, demanding explanation, as to the policy which Russia intended to adopt respecting South America.

Intelligence has been received in England of a dreadful inundation at a new settlement at the Cape of Good Hope.

Calcutta papers to the tenth of September have been received at New York. The cholera morbus was raging with great violence in many parts of India. Inundations in the Upper Provinces had done very great damage, particularly to Indigo. Tirboot, considered one of the safest Indigo Districts in the country, has been completely ruined.

DOMESTIC.

The night of the 11th inst. was signalized by a violent storm, which did immense damage in various parts of the country. Nearly all the bridges on Connecticut river were wholly or partially destroyed. Among the number were the Bridge between Northampton and Hadley, of which almost 300 feet were swept away.—The Bridge at Montague, opposite Greenfield, was nearall swept away. The Bridges between Norwich and Hanover, Hartland and Lebanon, Windsor and Cornish, Springfield and Charlestown, Walpole and Westminster, Westmoreland and Chesterfield, were either wholly or in part swept away. The Bridge near Brattleborough, over the east branch of Connecticut river, about 100 rods from that over the main stream, was entirely swept away. The Bridge over the main stream received but little damage. Five Bridges on Williams river; several on the Ashuelot, three on Cold river, in Acworth, were likewise destroyed. The dam on the Connecticut, says the Greenfield paper, at the mouth of Miller's river, and the Locks at that place are almost wholly destroyed; the *Great Dam* connected with the Locks, below, which was rebuilt the last season, is materially injured. The Great Dam at South Hadley Falls is principally carried off.

In the neighborhood of Boston the tempest was very violent, but owing to the direction of the wind, and the tide being out, when it was highest, but little damage was done to the shipping. A board twenty-four feet long was taken by the wind from a pile on Spear's wharf, and carried through the clapboards and boarding of the second story of a building occupied by Mr. Charles Appleton, sail maker, on Fort Hill Wharf, and broke a joist of five by three inches of the floor of the third story, by which its force was destroyed.—The pile is about 150 feet from the loft. Another board from the same pile was blown over the loft and lodged in the porch of the house of Mr. John Sargent, Branch Pilot, in Gibb's lane.

The Greenfield Herald states that the damage by the late freshet, on the Connecticut river, cannot be estimated at less than 100,000 dollars.

At Haverhill, during the late gale, the alarm was so great that the inhabitants fled for refuge from their own dwellings to the meeting house; where, being collected, the terror was increased by several windows being blown in.

Republican Nomination.—His Excellency WILLIAM EUSTIS, for Governor; Hon. MARCUS MORTON, for Lieut. Governor. [*Boston Patriot.*

"*Affair of Honor.*"—A duel was recently fought, at the South, between two slaves—"All for *love.*" The parties were without seconds, and, for the want of pistols, were armed with muskets. Upon the first fire one was killed on the spot, and the other wounded, it was supposed mortally. This was doing the business pretty effectually. The slaves seem determined to *pluck up the drowning honor* of duellists.

[*Mass. Yeoman.*

Mammoth Pig.—Messrs. Tracy and Sherman, of Norwich, have raised and fatted this season a pig, weighing as follows—alive 900 lbs. dressed 710 lbs.

Large Ox.—Mr. Thomas Borden, of Fall-River, killed an ox, last week, weighing *fifteen hundred and fifty six pounds.*

Distressing.—A daughter, and as we learn, an only child of Mr. Stephen Nash, living near Saugatuck Bridge, Ct. about four years old, was burnt to death on Friday afternoon last, in consequence of her clothes taking fire. She was alone in the house at the time.

CONGRESSIONAL.

In Senate.—Friday, Feb. 6. After attending to local and private business, the Senate in Committee, resumed the consideration of the bill to authorize the building of an additional number of Sloops of War.—The bill had been so altered as to provide for the building of the vessels so soon as suitable materials could be obtained, and the appropriation made 425,000, instead of 850,000. The bill thus amended was opposed by Mr. Barbour and Mr. Macon, and supported by Messrs. Lloyd, of Mass. Hayne, of S. C. and Smith, of Maryland; when the consideration of the subject was postponed to Monday.

Monday, Feb. 9. The sums appropriated for building Ships of War having been fixed at $250,000 for the present year; and 200,000 annually for the three ensuing years, the bill, thus amended, passed to be engrossed. It afterwards passed the Senate, and was sent to the House.

Tuesday, Feb. 10. The annual report of the Sinking Fund was received and read.

The Senate in Committee proceeded to consider the bill to secure the accountability of public officers. After much discussion, and several proposals of amendment the bill passed to be engrossed for a third reading.

Wednesday, Feb. 11. A statement of all the Pursers and Navy Agents, in arrears to the Government, was received from the Treasury Department, and ordered to be printed.

The bill from the other house, authorising surveys of Roads and Canals, passed to a second reading, and was afterwards committed.

Thursday, Feb. 12. Statements of the Commerce and navigation of the U. S. for 1823, were received, and ordered to be printed.

A resolution of the Legislature of Indiana, in favor of a revision of the Tariff for the purpose of encouraging domestic Manufactures was committed.

The bill to abolish imprisonment for debt, was taken up, discussed, and its further consideration postponed till Monday.

On motion of Mr. Lloyd, of Mass. the bill for extending the term of pensions to the widows and orphans of persons slain, &c. on board private armed vessels, during the late war, was discussed in Committee, reported without amendments, and ordered to be engrossed

House.—Friday, Feb. 6. A bill laying a duty on sales of merchandize at auction, was reported, read twice, and referred.

Mr. Abbot, of Georgia, in compliance with directions of the Legislature of that State, offered the following joint resolution:—

Resolved, &c. That the following amendment of the Constitution of the United States be proposed to the Legislatures of the several States, viz:—"That no part of the Constitution of the United States ought to be construed, or shall be construed to authorize the importation or ingress of any person of color into any one of the United States contrary to the laws of such State." Read and referred as usual.

The House, in Committee, resumed the subject of Internal Improvements, and Messrs. Smith, Gazlay, Neale and Livingston, of L. delivered their sentiments, but no question was taken, before the House adjourned.

Monday, Feb. 9. A Memorial praying Congress to diffuse genuine Vaccine Matter throughout the U. S. as a certain preventive of small pox was committed.

Tuesday, Feb. 10. The bill on the subject of Internal Improvements was brought into consideration, and after several motions for re-commitment, continuance, &c. the question on engrossing the bill for a third reading was taken and decided in the affirmative. Yeas 115. Nays 86.

Wednesday, Feb. 11, and Thursday Feb. 12, were principally occupied in debates on the Tariff Revision Bill, but no decision was obtained.

MASSACHUSETTS LEGISLATURE.

In Senate.—Wednesday Feb. 11. A bill relating to Executors and Administrators was read a first time.

A Message was received from the Governor stating that he had received from the Governor of the State of Ohio a copy of certain resolutions, passed by the General Assembly of that State in January last, proposing that a system be adopted for the gradual emancipation of the people of color, held in servitude in the U. States; and recommending a plan of foreign colonization for their improvement, and eventual deliverance from slavery, with a request that said resolution be laid before the Legislature of this State.

Thursday, Feb. 12. Hon. Messrs. Allen, Hubbard, Willard, Rutter and Hastings were appointed a Joint Committee to report what further measures were necessary to effect the adjustment of the claims of this Commonwealth on the U. States for military services, &c.

The Hon. Messrs. Keyes, Hubbard and Mills were appointed a Committee to report on the expediency of empowering Courts to require parties to produce evidence in their possession pertinent to the issue pending between them.

Saturday, Feb. 14. A resolve authorizing Harvard University, Williams College, and the Berkshire Medical Institution, to bring in Bills, was reported, accepted, and sent to tho House for concurrence.

A bill relating to the Reversionary interest of Charles River Bridge, was read a second time, and laid on the table.

Monday, Feb. 16. The bill relating to Charles River Bridge; and the bill to incorporate the Middlesex Bridge Proprietors are referred to the next session.

A bill to prevent fraud in the admeasurement of Grain, Salt and Meal passed to be engrossed.

Tuesday, Feb. 17. The Joint Committees on the resolutions of Tennessee and Alabama, reported, that it was inexpedient to express any opinion on the formation of a Convention of Members of Congress to nominate candidates for President, &c.

A Message was received from the Governor, relative to the claim of the Commonwealth now pending with the Government of the U. S. and stating the necessity of making further appropriations to defray the expenses necessary for continuing the prosecution of that claim.

House.—Wednesday, Feb. 11. Among the bills enacted of general interest, were a bill to repeal the act to restrain the issuing of certain printed promissory notes;—a bill in addition to the act making further provision in the Judicial Department. The additional bill relating to the appointment of Inspectors, and regulating the manufacture of Gunpowder, passed to be engrossed. The bill to alter the law providing for the Instruction of Youth, as originally reported, was read a third time, and laid on the table. The bill further to regulate the Militia passed to be engrossed. A bill for the better regulation of Goals and the prisoners therein was read once. A bill respecting the admeasurement of Grain was amended, and laid on the table.

Messrs. McKay, Hewins, Crowell, Hale, and Carey were appointed a Committee to enquire into the expediency of amending the 13th article of the first Section of the 2d chapter of the Constitution so as to authorize the Legislature to decrease as well as increase the amount of salaries for the Justices of the Supreme Judicial Court.

A bill was reported relating to the Reversionary interest of the Commonwealth in the Bridges in the vicinity of Boston, proposing to grant to the Proprietors of Charles River Bridge a perpetual right in the same on certain conditions.

Thursday, Feb. 12. A resolve, granting $1800 for the use of the States Prison was read the first time, and has since passed both Houses.

A bill to prevent the wanton destruction of lamps in streets and on bridges was read twice.

Messrs. Ellis, Gray and Jackson were appointed a Committee to report on the expediency of repealing the law requiring in certain cases that the bodies of persons, who commit suicide shall be interred in the Highway.

The bill to alter and amend the act providing for the Instruction of Youth passed to be engrossed in concurrence.

Friday, Feb. 13. A committee was appointed to report on the expediency of amending a law regulating the practice of Physic and Surgery.

The Militia Bill was further amended so as to exempt uniformed, non-commissioned officers and privates of the militia from the poll tax.

Saturday, Feb. 14. The bill respecting Highways was indefinitely postponed.

The Judges and Registers of Probate salary bill passed to be engrossed.

Monday, Feb. 16. The Report of the Joint Committee, giving leave to Harvard University, Williams College, and the Berkshire Medical Institution, to bring in bills for the benefit of those Institutions, came down from the Senate for concurrence. The House non-concurred in the parts of the report, which relate to the University and the College, and concurred in giving leave to the Berkshire Medical Institution to bring in a bill.

First volume of the New England Farmer wanted.—A few complete copies of the first volume of the New England Farmer would be gladly received at this Office in exchange for complete copies of the 2d vol. of the same publication. Also, No. 42, of the first volume is much wanted to complete a file, and a generous price will be given for that number, by the publisher of this paper.

FOR sale at this office a few pounds of *Mangel Wurtzel Seed*, raised by John Prince, Esq., Roxbury. Feb. 21.

PRICES OF COUNTRY PRODUCE, &c

[Revised and corrected every Friday.]

		FROM D. C.	TO D. C.
APPLES, good, to best,	bbl.	1 75	2 25
ASHES, pot, 1st sort,	ton.	147 00	150
pearl do.		142	145 00
BEANS, white,	bush	90	1 00
BEEF, mess, 200 lbs. new,	bbl.	8	8 50
cargo, No 1,		6 75	7
" No 2,		5 75	6
BUTTER, inspect. 1st qual.	lb.	10	12
" 2d qual.		8	10
CHEESE, new milk		7	8
skimed milk,		3	4
FLAX		8	9
FLAX SEED	bush	83	90
FLOUR, Baltimore, Howard St.	bbl.	6 75	
Genessee,		7	7 25
Rye, best		3 75	
GRAIN, Rye	bush	60	63
Corn		40	50
Barley		67	70
Oats		38	40
HOGS' LARD, 1st sort	lb.	9	10
HOPS, No 1, Inspection of 1823		35	40
LIME,	cask	1 00	1 17
OIL, Linseed, Phil. and Northern	gal.	63	72
PLAISTER PARIS	ton.	4 50	5 00
PORK, BoneMiddlings new,	bbl.	14 50	15 00
navy, mess,		12 50	
Cargo, No 1,		11 75	12
SEEDS, Herd's Grass, 1822,	bush	2 75	3 00
Clover	lb.	7	8
WOOL, Merino, full blood, washed		58	70
do do unwashed		37	40
do 3-4 washed		45	50
do 1-2 do		37	40
Native do		31	33
Pulled, Lamb's, 1st sort		50	00
do Spinning, 1st sort		40	42
PROVISION MARKET.	lb.		
BEEF, best pieces		6	
PORK, fresh		5	6
VEAL,		4	10
MUTTON and LAMB,		3	10
POULTRY,		6	10
BUTTER, keg & tub, family,		13	16
lump,		11	20
EGGS,	doz.	14	17
MEAL, Rye, retail,	bush	75	80
Indian, do.		65	70
POTATOES,		33	40
CIDER, liquor, new	bbl.	2 00	2 50
HAY, according to quality,	ton.	18 00	20 00

NIGHT.—BY MONTGOMERY.

Night is the time for rest;
How sweet when labors close;
To gather round our aching breast
The curtain of repose:
Stretch the tired limbs, and lay the head
Upon our own delightful bed!

Night is the time for dreams;
The gay romance of life,
When truth that is, and truth that seems,
Blend in fantastic strife;
Ah! visions less beguiling far
Than waking dreams by day-light are.

Night is the time for toil;
To plough the classic field,
Intent to find the buried spoil
Its wealthy furrows yield;
Till all is ours that sages taught,
That poets sang, or heroes wrought.

Night is the time to weep;
To wet with unseen tears
Those graves of memory, where sleep
The joys of other years;
Hopes that were angels in their birth,
But perished young like things of earth!

Night is the time to watch;
On ocean's dark expanse,
To hail the Pleiades, or catch
The full moon's earliest glance,
And brings into the home-sick mind
All we loved and left behind.

Night is the time for care;
Brooding on hours misspent,
To see the Spectre of despair
Come to our lonely tent;
Like Brutus midst his slumbering host,
Startled by Cæsar's stalworth ghost.

Night is the time to muse;
Then from the eye the soul
Takes flight, and with expanding views
Beyond the starry pole,
Descries athwart the abyss of night
The dawn of uncreated light.

Night is the time to pray;
Our Saviour oft withdrew
To desert mountains far away,
So will his followers do;
Steal from the throng to haunts untrod,
And hold communion there with God.

Night is the time for death;
When all around is peace,
Calmly to yield the weary breath,
From sin and suffering cease:
Think of Heaven's bliss, and give the sign
To parting friends—such death be mine!

MISCELLANY.

FAINTING.

Nothing alarms by-standers so much as seeing a person faint away. This fainting arises from fright, loss of blood, or pains, and however unpleasant it is, is rather an antidote or a cure, than a disease: for under fainting, there is a suspension of every faculty: during it the bleeding ceases, the pain is not felt, or the object which caused the fright forgotten or removed. It is very seldom dangerous; and more harm has arisen from improper modes to remove it, than from the fainting itself. Let the person be laid in a horizontal position, and pressure of every sort removed. Such as stays, neckcloth, &c.: if a man, let the shirt collar be unbuttoned, and nothing tight remain about the knees or arms. Stimulants are generally applied to the nose; and fortunately do no harm, because the person is insensible to their influence. If in a room, let the windows be opened to cool the surrounding air, for if it be heated, even that stimulus is too great; for the same reason it is improper for persons to stand in a crowd around one who has fainted, and who wants all the fresh and cool air that can be admitted to him. Never shake the body with a view to raise the vital spark lest you darken it forever.

Many persons from extreme sensibility are apt to faint when they see any one in distress, or witness any alarming accidents: and hence, instead of being of any use, they add to the general confusion. This state of mind, as it is much to be lamented, so it ought to be guarded against with the utmost care. It depends, in some measure no doubt, on bodily constitution: but since we know it may be increased by indulgence, why should it not be checked, or perhaps cured, by good sense and resolution? It will be worth while to try; and for the encouragement of my readers, I can assure them, that many persons, who were formerly so timid as to run away from the sight of a little blood, and be greatly alarmed at a shriek, have so far overcome this weakness, as to render themselves highly useful on many similar occasions. It is certainly right to sympathize with our fellow creatures in their distress but that degree of sympathy is best which while it teaches us to pity, prompts us to relieve and assist them.

Something Remarkable.—A wild Swan or Cygnet, was shot on Saturday last, at the west end of this Island, by Wm. Bennett. Such an occurrence, in the middle of January, we believe is wholly unprecedented in the sporting annals of this quarter of our country. This beautiful and extraordinary bird was discovered several days since, entirely unaccompanied by any of its species, at the opposite point of the Island, about 12 miles eastward of the place where he was killed. Its plumage is singularly compact and delicate. The body, wings and neck, are of the purest white—the feet and bill black. Length, from the tip of the bill to the feet, 5 feet and 8 inches. Distance between the extremities of the wings when extended, seven feet. Weight, about 24 pounds.—*Nantucket Inquirer.*

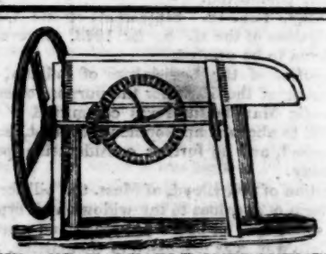
ANECDOTES.

Col. Francis Edgeworth, an ancestor of the late Mr. R. L. Edgeworth, was a man of great wit and gaiety, fond of his profession, quite a soldier, and totally regardless of money. Besides being straitened in his circumstances, by having for many years a large jointure to pay to his mother, he was involved in difficulties by his taste for play—a taste which, from indulgence, became an irresistable passion. One night, after having lost all the money he could command, he staked his wife's diamond ear-rings, and went into an adjoining room, where she was sitting in company, to ask her to lend them to him. She took them from her ears and gave them to him, saying that she knew for what purpose he wanted them, and that he was welcome to them. They were played for, and the Colonel was so fortunate, as to win back all that he had lost that night. In the warmth of his gratitude to his wife, he, at her desire, took an oath never more to play at any game with cards or dice. Some time afterwards, he was found in a hay-yard, with a friend, drawing straws out of a hay-rick, and betting upon which should be the longest!

A hard Master.—A rich man whose head was not so well filled as his purse, hired a band of musicians to perform for an evening to entertain some company, which he had invited. When they were performing an overture the master of the feast went up to the harp-players, and asked why they were not playing? They said they had twenty bars rest. "Rest!" says he, "I will have nobody *rest* in my employment. I pay you for *playing* not for *resting*."

A man who wanted employment as a schoolmaster was asked if he was acquainted with mathematics. The would be schoolmaster, supposing some great literary character was meant, replied, "Matthew Mattocks, sir? No, sir, I am not acquainted with Matthew, but I know his brother Richard very well."

A bad character better than none.—"Sir" observed a publican of Doncaster, to a man notorious for never speaking the truth, "you have taken away my character." "How so?" said the other, "I never mentioned your name in my life." "No matter for that," replied Boniface, "before *you* came here I was reckoned the greatest liar in the place."



NEW AND VALUABLE IMPROVEMENT.

JUST received, and for sale at the Agricultural Establishment, No. 20, Merchants' Row, Willis' highly approved patent Straw Cutter; for simplicity, ease, and despatch in cutting straw, hay, &c. far exceeds any now in use.—Likewise, Safford's improved Straw Cutter; with a variety of common Hand Machines, for the same purpose.—Also, W. James' improved patent Corn Sheller, a very valuable and simple Machine.
Jan. 31.

BRISTOL CROWN GLASS.

150 BOXES Bristol Crown Window Glass, of superior quality, just received and for sale, wholesale and retail, at the very lowest prices, by BRIGHAM & DELANO, No. 30, Union-street.

WANTED to purchase twenty or thirty full blood Merino Ewes. Address, or apply to DANIEL WILD, Broker, Exchange Street, Boston. Feb. 7.

TERMS OF THE FARMER.

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